



## STATE SENATOR

## Michelle A. McManus

SERVING THE 35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT*Environmental Update. . .*

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CONTACT  
INFORMATION**ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

**TELEPHONE:**

1-866-305-2135 or  
(517) 373-1725

**FAX:**

(517) 373-0741

**E-MAIL:**

senmmcmanus@senate.  
michigan.gov

**WEBSITE:**

www.senate.michigan.  
gov/mcmanus

*Dear Friends:*

*We are truly fortunate to live in a state blessed with unparalleled natural beauty and natural resources. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and chair of both the Department of Environmental Quality Subcommittee and the Department of Natural Resources Subcommittee, I am committed to doing all I can to preserve our natural heritage.*

*I would like to bring you up-to-date on some of the important environmental issues we have been working on in the Michigan Senate. While we have accomplished a great deal, much work remains to safeguard and protect Michigan's environment - now and for the future so our children and grandchildren may enjoy the beauty we enjoy today.*

*As your State Senator, I welcome hearing from you on an environmental issue, or any state matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at 866-305-2135 or by e-mail at [senmmcmanus@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmmcmanus@senate.michigan.gov) with any questions, concerns and ideas you may have.*

*Sincerely,*

**Michelle A. McManus**

*State Senator*

## REGULATING SOLID WASTE

In October, we in the Senate overwhelmingly passed a comprehensive bipartisan package of legislation that would impose tighter restrictions on solid waste disposal in Michigan. The legislation would also authorize a statewide landfill inspection program, allow the Department of Environmental Quality director to refuse waste shipments if they threatened public health in any way, and add new fines for certain waste disposal violations. The package moved through the House and now awaits the governor's signature.

## RECEIVE E-LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

If you would like to receive periodic legislative updates via email, please send a short note to [senmmcmanus@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmmcmanus@senate.michigan.gov). Electronic mail is an inexpensive and convenient method to transmit information to interested citizens.

# BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING

**A**lso in October, the Michigan Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force presented their final report to the Senate and the public. The 64-page document culminates the nearly 10 months of work performed by the task force and their recommendations. The recommendations outline one of the most comprehensive recycling efforts to be undertaken by any state, and are the first in-depth review of Michigan's beverage container law since it was initiated by voters in 1976. The task force made more than 40 legislative proposals aimed at increasing Michigan's recycling rate. Currently, the state's recycling rate is at 20 percent. For a copy of the report, please contact my office toll-free at 866-305-2135 or visit [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/recycle/pdf](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/recycle/pdf) to view the document electronically.



## ENVIRONMENTAL HONOR

**I**am pleased to tell you that the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts selected me to receive their President's Award in December. This award is very special to me, particularly coming from a group representing the stewards of our state's natural resources, and I am grateful for their support and recognition of my hard work on behalf of our environment.



**Senator McManus**  
was honored by the  
Michigan Association  
of Conservation  
Districts.

## LOCAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS

**T**his month, I introduced legislation that would give local governments more options for funding recycling programs. SB 937 would allow local units of government to sponsor a ballot proposal to fund recycling programs. Local voters then would have an opportunity to vote on the additional funding. One size rarely fits all, especially when it comes to providing local government services like recycling programs, so our approach is to allow communities to tailor recycling programs to their needs and determine - at the local level - how best to fund those programs.



## LEGISLATURE APPROVES WASTEWATER DISCHARGE FEES

**L**egislation establishing a system to fund the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's pollution discharge monitoring program has been passed by both the House and Senate. SB 252 would establish new wastewater discharge permit fees for municipalities and businesses under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Fund. The money collected would fund the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's monitoring of the system. If a fee system isn't established soon, Michigan may lose authority to monitor the NPDES program, and that authority may move to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The bill now goes to the governor.

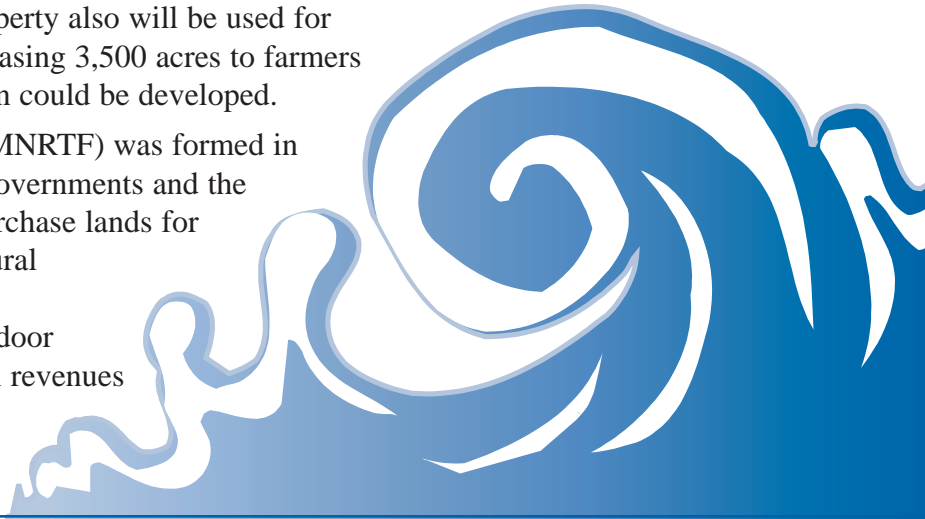


## NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND HELPS SECURE MAJOR LAKE MICHIGAN SHORELINE PURCHASE

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy was able to acquire 6,000 acres of undeveloped land between Watervale and Arcadia from CMS Energy, thanks in part to a \$4 million grant from the Natural Resources Trust Fund. The deal, announced in October, allows the conservancy to permanently protect the land from development.

The land is one of the largest blocks of privately owned property along Lake Michigan and boasts two miles of high-bluff shoreline. The property west of M-22 along the shoreline will be treated as a natural area. Motorized vehicles will be prohibited and low-impact activities will include hiking and limited hunting. A small portion of the property also will be used for sustainable forestry. CMS Energy's policy of leasing 3,500 acres to farmers would continue until a more permanent solution could be developed.

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) was formed in 1976 to provide financial assistance for local governments and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to purchase lands for outdoor recreation and/or the protection of natural resources and open space. It also assists in the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation. The MNRTF is supported by annual revenues from the development of State-owned mineral resources, largely oil and gas.



### SENATOR MICHELLE A. MCMANUS

#### 35th Senate District



**Lansing Office:** 905 Farnum Bldg.

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536

**Phone:** (517) 373-1725

**Fax:** (517) 373-0741

**District Office:** 111 N. Mitchell St., Cadillac, MI 49604

**Phone:** (231) 775-8599

**Email:** [senmmcmamus@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmmcmamus@senate.michigan.gov)

**Website:** [www.senate.michigan.gov/mcmamus](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/mcmamus)

#### CONNECT WITH LANSING ISSUES AFFECTING YOU.

- **McManus Minutes** — *sign up for my weekly e-mail*
- Monthly office hours throughout the district  
(*call for times and locations*)
- **Conversations with Michelle McManus** monthly cable show  
*The Cadillac Area Land Conservancy is the feature of March's cable show and is on: CCTV, TCTV2, and Manistee Cable TV.*





State Senator  
**MICHELLE A. McMANUS**  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

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## SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATES STATE FORESTRY SYSTEM

**I**sponsored a resolution calling on the Senate to recognize August 9, 2003, as the 100th Anniversary of Michigan's State Forest System and to encourage the continued sustainable management of Michigan's forests into the next 100 years.

Michigan has a long and rich tradition of forestry dating back to the establishment by the Michigan Forestry Commission of the first state forest in 1903. Over the next 100 years, the state forest system grew from 34,000 acres to nearly 4 million acres. Thanks to the efforts of many people and organizations, guiding its stewardship and keeping it healthy and growing over the years, Michigan's state forest system is now the largest in the country.



## CONSERVATION LICENSE PLATES

Michigan residents can help support conservation programs by buying a specialty license plate. There are two great choices. The wildlife habitat plate, featuring the common loon, raises money for the state Nongame Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. This program supports Michigan's endangered, threatened and nongame wildlife as well as a network of watchable wildlife sites. The Water Quality plate, graced by a red sailboat in blue waters, helps fund water protection programs.

The license plates are available by mail or fax, or at any Secretary of State branch office. The original fee is \$35 in addition to the annual registration fee. Twenty-five dollars of this cost goes to the conservation cause. For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos). Click on Owning a Vehicle, and then License Plate Store.

